

The

# Ascent

May 2003

## Students Treat Patients in the Dominican Republic

By Mike Ungerland, President of SWOB

The annual Students Without Borders (SWOB) trip to the Dominican Republic was, again, a great humanitarian, educational, and social success for students and practitioners in 2003.

After a full year of planning, fundraising, and acquiring donations, we evaluated and treated over 460 Dominican/Haitian patients in a matter of five days in the small four-room clinic of Progreso Dos. Upon evaluation and treatment of these patients, we even incorporated them into assisting our art group with the beautiful and colorful paintings on the outside of the clinic. Led by faculty member Kevin Kegler and student member Sharon Morgante, the art group painted the entire outside of the clinic

with decorative drawings submitted by children of the community, as well as with positive religious messages suggested by the adults of the community. Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, and Spanish students obtained invaluable patient experiences within the clinic under the guidance of Dr. Ron Santasiero, Mr. Todd Roland, Registered Physician Assistant-Certified (RPA-C), Ms. Kara Woods, RPA-C, and Mr. Dan Cronin, RPA-C. Over the week, we witnessed and assisted in caring for uncontrolled diabetics, a 16-year-old third-degree burn patient, a variety of dehydration cases, musculoskeletal problems, and countless parasite and fungal infections. Thanks to the Daemen community and Buffalo, in general, we obtained a sufficient amount of medications to treat most of

these conditions and purchased those medications that we needed, but didn't have. For patients' conditions that were more long term and extenuating past our stay in the Dominican, we made a concerted effort to purchase enough supplies to last them for the remainder of their treatments and, in one diabetic case, until we come back next year.

The clinic operated smoothly and allowed each member of our group of 29 students/practitioners to gain a unique experience and insight into a great humanitarian effort.

Everyone is already looking forward to traveling to the Dominican Republic next year.

SWOB will be hosting a couple of interest meetings from now until the end of the year.

## Studying Abroad During War

By Antoinette DelBel

Despite U.S. involvement in the war with Iraq, concerns over the war haven't thus far affected the number of individuals traveling to Italy through Daemen's Summer Study Abroad Program.

Dr. Denise Mills, Foreign Language Department Chair, had to extend the deadline for applications to study abroad in Florence, Italy for those who may have any anxiety over the war.

"I think there were probably going to be fewer students going to Italy this year because of (the war), but until I get the firm numbers, I don't know," she said.

Dr. Mills made the decision to extend the deadline until the first week of April.

Since war with Iraq, the State Department has not yet placed any restrictions or travel bans to Italy.

Many individuals do not foresee traveling to Europe to be a problem at this time.

"I don't think there is a reason to be nervous about being in Italy. I think it's safer there than it is here," Dr. Mills said.

Wayne Brown, history major, agrees.

"It's safer to travel internationally than within the states....European airlines are much more thorough than we are," he said. "I'd rather be in Italy than a few miles away from Niagara Falls."

Participants in the Italian Program stay with an Italian family to experience the culture, and take classes with Italian instructors in which they earn transferable credits.

Students have the choice of doing the four-

week session, that runs May 23 to June 20, or the six-week session, that extends to July 3.

Although, Dr. Mills can't guarantee that the world will be any more peaceful or less war-like, she says anxiety over war is sort of foolish. She advises people who are worried about traveling abroad right now, to wait.

Chris DePasquale, physical therapy major, says he can't wait to study abroad in Florence this summer. He has only one concern.

"I've always wanted to go to Italy, but the only anxiety that I would have is how accepting Europeans and Italians would be of Americans in this time of war," he said.

French major, Gabrielle Grubka, was given advice in avoiding any anti-American sentiment while being abroad this year in the Canadian program from May to December.

Grubka said, "The director of the Ottawa program has advised us not to start debates with others regarding the war, and I think that's wise advice."

"He also told us not to act overly American, like wearing patriotic clothing, for example," she added, "and, that we should try to blend in as best we can."

Dr. Mills says that in her numerous experiences abroad, people with anti-American sentiment, usually direct it toward the government.

"I think people around the world who are irritated at the U.S. are irritated at George Bush and his administration, not an individual American," she said.

Toby Beahan, a history major who will be studying in Taiwan December of 2003 through the Asian Network, agrees.

"I don't think I'd sacrifice this opportunity for

these types of concerns," he said.

Aside from the war, the cost of the program may be another factor in which students may choose to hold off studying abroad this year.

The cost of the Italian Study Abroad Program for four weeks is \$3,750, including the \$550 Daemen College grant.

The additional two-week program is an extra \$1,850.

The grant is less this year, compared to last year's \$800 grant, because the Euro is stronger, making the dollar weaker, according to Dr. Mills.

PJ Tudisco, physical therapy major, says that the high cost of the program is the only thing holding him back from going to Italy this summer, as well as some anxiety about being overseas with the high terrorist threat.

Others wouldn't travel internationally during the war because of the capabilities of nuclear and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

"In regards to the war, I wouldn't want to be stuck anywhere foreign," said Dawn Cipressi, biology major at D'Youville College. "And, with all the chemical warfare, I wouldn't want to travel, especially to Europe."

Although Dr. Mills recommends studying abroad and seeing the world in a different view, she says that traveling depends on the individual student in deciding what is right for him or her.

"You can stay home and worry, you can go abroad and worry....I can't promise terrible things aren't going to happen in Italy or Spain or Mexico," Dr. Mills said.

"But," she added, "I can't promise terrible things aren't going to happen in Buffalo or Chicago or New York."



# Opinions and Editorials

## Emnity Against Tyranny of the Mind

By Josh Gallagher

The events of the past two years are changing the average Americans outlook on world affairs. No longer can a responsible patriotic citizen comfortably watch the evening news without becoming incensed about the state of American affairs. At every office water cooler, student union and sidewalk protest it invades our lips and minds. In every headline and late-breaking news report it fills our eyes and ears. It is war, and it is everywhere. Missiles may fly only over Baghdad, but our shores still bleed in a war of loyalties.

Commercials fill the air waves, their messages clear to all infected, "Support our Troops." Church groups collect duct tape and sunglasses, school children make construction paper flags. A wonderful thing is happening; the many are coming together for one cause. The plight of the volunteer American soldier against the awesome threat that is Saddam Hussein makes every real American stand up out of their recliner; wipe the greasy week old crumbs off their chin and scream, "We are going to get you Saddam. You can't mess with us." The fervent patriot takes it one step further. He understands the unspoken moral laws of King George W. Bush, he parrots wholeheartedly to all that will listen, "If yah ain't wit us, you's against us." But the fervent patriot knows that mere words are not enough. The fervent patriot calls his local wine store and asks, "Do have any good wine that's not French?" The fervent patriot asks for freedom fries with his hamburger. The fervent patriot angrily spits at Anti-War protesters on Elmwood; as he speeds by in his SUV. The fervent patriot trusts his administration. The fervent patriot keeps his cell phone ready, ready to call the police should that suspicious man with the olive skin try anything. You know the one they look for. Like that one in the park, the one who is there every day, sitting, smiling, throwing bread to the squirrels, you always knew he was up to something. One day you'll catch him, one day he'll slip.

You are a fervent patriot. You don't care what the world thinks about American actions. It never mattered what they thought. What are they going to do against Pax Americana? What are they going

to do against "The Coalition of the Willing?" We are Americans and we are proud. We are proud of our present action around the world. We are proud of our history. We are proud of our roots. We are proud to continue the legacy of our founding fathers and bring this legacy to the ignorant undeveloped world. We are the descendants of Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine and we will not be stopped.

You are ignorant.

You are not patriots.

You are a disgrace.

You have watched and clapped as our rights were torn from us. You have watched and clapped as our might was torn from us. You never even knew what you had before you lost it. Now you have a flag, an unchecked leader and a big fat target on your heads.

What went wrong?

A true patriot would know. A member of an informed electorate would know. Someone who stands strong to the vision that made this great empire would know. Instead of parroting Bush, they would quote Jefferson, instead of preaching Powell, they would pray Paine.

"Subject opinion to coercion; whom will you make your inquisitors? Fallible men governed by bad passions, by private as well as public reasons. And why subject it to coercion? To produce more uniformity? But is uniformity of opinion desirable? No more than of face and stature." These compelling words were spoken by Thomas Jefferson. A true patriot would stand up for what he believed in. One cannot self-censor because it is against public opinion or war-drums. One cannot support our troops solely because they have been deployed. One cannot trust the administration solely because they have declared war. A patriot would realize that war has historically been used to create a smokescreen between the administration and domestic affairs.

Recount the last three years. Do you recall an election, an election for the leader of the free world, mired in controversy? Do you remember racial profiling in the polling booths? Do you recall the blood ties between the contested state and

the contested candidate? Do you remember the Enron scandal? Do you know how entrenched our current leader and his minions were in this scandal? Do you know anything?

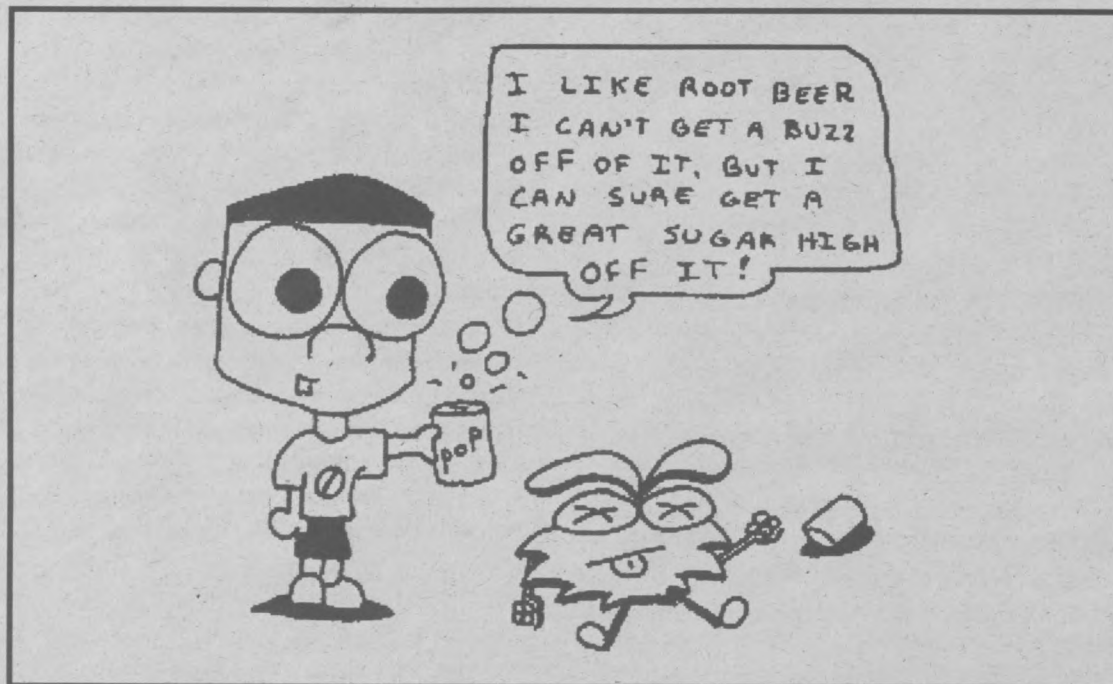
The war for loyalties is in full effect. The war is over the definition of patriot. Is a patriot a mindless follower of their current administrator, a follower who repeats mass line and watches war coverage in the PIP during football. If so, battling communism was a charade.

Luckily, that is not a patriot. An American patriot is characterized by unwavering defense of his civil liberties, her right to express dissent, a free and uncensored press, and an absolute equality for all Americans regardless of sex, race, creed, color, or national origin.

The real patriots should stand up for a great cause. Not one as simple as war or no war. Not one as simple as corporate accountability or tax cuts for the rich. Not one as simple as favorable world opinion or unfavorable world opinion, but one as great and complex as going back to the democratic ideals that formed this country.

Fight for a free press. Fight for a free citizenry. Fight for a free mindset. Do not be enslaved in propaganda and misinformation. If you don't understand anything I just said, do me a favor, don't vote. Democracy is based on an informed electorate. If you don't know what an electorate is, find out. It will be your first step to being a true patriot!

## Adamtoon



By Adam DeRose

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# Political Opinions

*Disclaimer: All opinions expressed on this page are those solely of the writers. They do not reflect the opinions of the staff or advisors of this newspaper or the college as a whole.*

## The Face of War

By Wayne Brown

This woman could be someone in a class with you; after class, you would hang out together. For some of you, she may be someone that you would want to ask out on a date. For others, she may simply be another face in the crowd. Regardless, she is a sister and a daughter to a loving West Virginia family.

This war has very suddenly been given a face and a name, one that not too many people can honestly say they expected. When Americans think of our military people, traditionally, some tough "leatherneck" image comes to mind. This visualized warrior is a powerful and unsentimental soldier who does what he does and is good at it, because he is tough. Well, thanks to a military like that, we learned this week that "average people" enlist too.

Jessica Lynch is a 19-year old girl from small-town West Virginia. She enlisted to serve her military because she had pride in her country and, as a bonus, that same country would help pay for her education. I have no doubt that everyone who reads these words knows someone that fits this profile of a patriotic scholar. This cute young lady who looks like anyone else walking down the halls of any college in the country did what she had to do to serve her country in a time of war. She didn't sign up looking to be a war hero, her goal was to become an elementary school teacher at the school she attended as a child. Much to her and her family's surprise, Jessica Lynch is a face of war

now.

There are other people just like her throughout the war. People who signed up because they could serve their country while their country helped pay for their schooling. Some men and women are fighting there because they felt a calling to serve as professional soldiers. Our military is an all-volunteer military, no one has been sent against their will.

The purpose of exercising our military now is not to showboat its power over Iraq to the world; the whole world knows we can win this war with ease. But what we Americans have seen is what even the most undeveloped army can do when it has decided to declare war on the United States. Remember, box cutters killed thousands more Americans in one day than this entire war will lose in its duration.

This is not to say that there is an acceptable number of American casualties during a time of war. I hate the thought of losing one more American soldier. But freedom has its cost, and there are brave men and women, both on ours and Middle Eastern shores, who are willing to lay it all out on the line to protect the people who cannot fight for themselves.

Do not lose sight of the people because there is a war in the way. These young men and women signed up to serve in our military for countless reasons. Some, I am sure, wanted to see action. But there are some people who signed up for help with college, some to develop discipline, some for the opportunity to travel, and some because they

felt that their career should be serving our country in times of peace, as well as in times of war.

People can feel free to disagree with the war, disagree with its managers, or disagree with the way it is being executed. I am the last person to argue against the freedom of self-expression. But before you go out with that poster of George W. Bush with a Hitler moustache, think about how that will be played in Iraq. And if that gives one more Iraqi soldier the courage to fight us, whose life might it cost? Your brother, your sister, your cousin? You say, "So what? I don't know anyone in the war." But, whose brother, sister, cousin, aunt, or uncle of somebody else are you willing to sacrifice for your "peace" protest? Think about the consequences of your actions. Disagree with the war if you want, but don't do it at the cost of human lives.

Thank you, Jessica. Your bravery helped Americans to remember that there are more than just professional soldiers fighting this war. This war is about people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, ideas and cultures. Don't waste your time hating the soldier or hating the war. No one likes war, but sometimes war is necessary so we have the freedom to say we don't like war.

When our men and women come home, thank them. Shake their hands, and give them a pat on the back. The bravery these people display is what makes our country the strongest in the world. Stand up, be proud, and remember that our society needs to keep the peace. Don't assume that it will always be there.

## The Democratic Response

By Sam Wright

"You can have it your way", or so the "Burger King" commercial soothingly assures. In modern America, we all know and love fast food, and the cheap feeling of satisfaction to be found in a meal that requires less than ten dollars to buy and less than ten minutes to eat. All of us have choked down those thin oily hamburgers, annihilating - at least momentarily - the sensation of hunger. Unfortunately for us, the world of diplomacy is not so similarly satisfying, in that our demands cannot be met so spontaneously. The trouble was, we could not force an international peace-making assembly into agreeing instantly to action against an ostensibly benign country. How infuriating.

We are now engaged in a military campaign that promises monumental success on all fronts, with hundreds of Iraqi soldiers dropping away from their lines to surrender to our army. The opulent palaces of the cruel Dictator are crumbling from cruise missile attacks, with destitute - and now doubtless ecstatic - Iraqis watching. Intelligence installations wherein despicable crimes were planned are tasting of the fire of destruction. The Baathist tyranny will meet its fate at the hands of the "coalition of the willing," and Saddam Hussein's corn-fed girth will, we can only hope, drift into the crosshairs of some GI's gun scope.

Yet with United Nations approbation this success could have been infinitely sweeter. Nietzsche once wrote, "Anyone who fights with monsters should take care that he in the process does not become a monster." The world perceives us as a

veritable monster now, not so much because of envy or hatred, but because we failed to properly justify our own intentions to them before invasion. In the emotionless view of history, we will be seen as a country with a righteous cause, yes, but with a dangerous impatience.

Conservatives like Wayne Brown, class of 2003, will respond that our motives are just, and that this self-evident fact chases away any accusations of an immoral invasion. Yet no matter how correct our motives may be, they must, to be pragmatically effective, attain the status of lawfulness. An invasion or forced disarmament was inevitable, but another month or two of inspections and bargaining at the United Nations could have won us over some more alliances, and even, perhaps, the blessing of the Security Council.

Consider this: after another two months of pressure, the French would likely have chosen to abstain from a Security Council vote, rather than veto a resolution. United Nations imprimatur would be gained. What could an impudent idiot like Saddam - surrounded by hordes of coalition troops - possibly have done to us in the space of two more months?

But the conservatives stubbornly declare that the Europeans are snail-eating wimps and that the UN is meaningless. Brown and his friends in the Republican party continue to paint the UN as "a big party" whose discussions and deliberations "[assail] the hosts" (to quote last month's column). Such has been their opinion from the start. Disgusted at the lack of immediate gratification,

they have treated the UN dismissively. The United Nations, contrary to what Brown simplistically argues, is not some smoky, superfluous cafe, where Americans and their ideals are attacked. It is a solemn body with a solemn purpose: peace. The UN should never be self-righteously side-stepped. To argue thus, after all, is to forswear the essence of diplomacy, cooperation. And, as the New Republic reminded its readership in its March 24th issue, even President George W. Bush once recognized the great weight behind the United Nations. In his campaign speeches in 2000, the president argued that if he had been commander-in-chief in 1994 he would not have interfered in Rwanda without U.N. support.

And so, as a group of courageous young men and women perform their duty valiantly abroad, we must remember that not every possible action was taken to legitimize their mission. President Bush, an evangelical Christian, proudly informs the American population that he reads his Bible daily. Perhaps during the diplomatic mission to the United Nations he should have remembered what the disciple James wrote to his fellow Christians: "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:4) (In secular and religious systems alike, patience and perseverance are esteemed as great virtues.)

In the United Nations debacle, it was obvious that our country could not instantly have it our way. In a larger perspective, it appears that patience went the way of home-cooked meals.



## The London Experience

By Brittany Cozad

Spring break is a week in college students' lives where we are left with a variety of options on how to spend our time. Some of us decide to pull extra hours at work, get a head start on studying for finals, or simply catching up on some long overdue sleep and rest. There are those students who decide to throw their books aside, and take off with family or friends to spend the week working on their tan.

However, this spring break, a group of Daemen students decided to go away with friends, but not to enjoy the sun. They embarked on a journey that took them across the big blue ocean to London, England. These students were part of the Honors Literature of London class, taught by Dr. Marck who acted as our own personal tour guide during our time in the city. The trip had been the only thing on our minds since the semester started, and when we left on March 14 for the airport, we felt like kids waking up on Christmas morning.

It was the first time for most of us on an overseas flight. For a few, it was the first time ever setting foot on an airplane. On the exhausting seven hour flight, we spent our time watching movies, reading, enjoying the food and attempting to get some sleep in cramped seats. Stepping off the plane, we were tired, sore, and looking forward to a shower and a fresh pair of clothes, but we had never been happier. All the months of waiting, planning and saving had come to an end. We were finally there. We were in London.

Our week in England was filled with sight seeing, shopping, riding the tube (their version of the subway) and eating fish and chips. We were constantly on the go, visiting all the places we had been studying for in our literature class the past three months. We traveled to the British Museum where we saw the Rosetta Stone, Egyptian artifacts and given the distinct honor of standing in the Reading Room where authors like Virginia Woolf would construct her works. Walking around the Tower of London and hearing the tales of imprisonment and beheading was a unique, and personally my favorite, event. We saw Buckingham Palace, the changing of the guard, and were able to get within 10 ft. of the home of Britain's famous heartthrob, Prince William. Of course, being a group of 12 young women, we felt it was only our duty to look for him through the closed curtains.

We were able to experience the re-constructed Shakespeare Globe Theatre and the breathtaking sight of the city from the top of St. Paul's Cathedral. The group was also given the opportunity to tour the Eastside of London, where the gruesome Jack the Ripper murders took place. Our guide took us to each murder spot and presented us with information concerning the women who were killed, and the theories behind the Ripper's identity, which is left to be determined. On a literary note, the class took a tour of Charles Dickens's house, which contained his furniture, writings and his own personal library. Other excursions included the National Portrait Gallery, Westminster Abby, and Trafalgar Square among other things. The week was filled with so many events that it would be impossible to list everything we saw and did.

The entire trip was a life changing experience that opened our eyes to different cultures and other parts of the world. The day we departed for England, we left as a class, but when we returned home, we were something much different. While learning about the city of London, we also learned much from and about each other. Our week in London not only gave us memorable experiences that we will treasure forever, but also friendships we will always remember in the years to come.

## War, What is it good for? Absolutely Nothin'! HUH

By Toby Beahan

Today, it was reported that David Bloom of NBC News has died while working as an imbedded journalist in the 3rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army as they neared Baghdad. As I write this there are an untold number of journalists sitting side by side with coalition forces as they draw closer to Baghdad.

Do we really understand what is going on in the world today? Whether it is declared or not, America is at war. People are dying everyday as forces push their way through the blazing heat of the Iraqi countryside. Before the war began, the casual news watcher was barraged with conflicting reports. On one hand, Saddam Hussein posed as an imminent danger to the U.S. and the world. On the other hand, American forces even in a completely unilateral action, could annihilate the Iraqi military in only a matter of days.

Most Americans did not expect American forces to receive as much resistance as they have seen since the outset of this war. Granted, everyday more Iraqis surrender or are defeated, but in at least some cases, not without putting up a prolonged and vigorous fight. Reporting from the frontline gives Americans a feeling of what is being experienced by our service men and women as they proceed in the current military endeavor, but have such reports helped to promote support at home, or have viewers become so desensitized to the violence that they no longer care or have any interest in the war? Many people express great annoyance and disgust with the incessant coverage of the war. So, has it been beneficial to cover the war in this style or has it

just desensitized the American people to the extent that apathy has grown to outweigh sympathy? I don't know if all the coverage has made the war more "real" or if it has just turned it into a "made-for-TV-movie that everyone just wants to turn off.

Unfortunately, today, as most Americans go about their everyday lives, our service men and women are engaged in fierce battles with Iraqi Republican Guard Divisions as they push toward Baghdad. Peppered throughout the various American combat divisions are embedded journalists, such as David Bloom, who are risking their lives to broadcast reports from the front lines. It would appear that these men and women are putting their lives on the line everyday, and their efforts do little more than create a lack of emotion among the American people.

This war should never have begun in the first place. Hundreds of thousands of American lives have been put at stake only to make the United States appear as an aggressor to the rest of the world. No matter how one feels about the war, it is important to support our men and women overseas. It is not their decision to fight but that of those who sit safely in Washington. Let us all hope and pray that this conflict ends soon, with as little loss of life as possible, and let us not forget that everyday that it continues. All people involved are constantly engaged in a life and death struggle to see the sun rise on another hot Iraqi day. The phrase "war is hell" was not coined for no reason, and this war is no exception to that truth. Take a moment to reflect on the situation in which the world is currently embroiled, lest we forget the horrors faced in any day of every war.

## Red Dragon: Not for the Timid

By Nina Zehr

### Red Dragon

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes, Harvey Keitel, and Emily Watson

Directed by: Brett Ratner

Rated R for violence, grisly images, language, some nudity and sexuality

Running Time: 124 minutes

Universal, 2002

If you plan on seeing a movie in order to escape the depressing, pervasively unsettling world that seems to be surrounding us today, see *Maid in Manhattan* or *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. If, however, you're interested in seeing a dark, slightly twisted but deeply satisfying thriller, see *Red Dragon*. The final installment of the Hannibal Lecter trilogy (a remake of Michael Mann's 1986 *Manhunter* and a prequel to *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal*) serves up an interesting blend of suspense, gore, and surprises that should satisfy any fan of the series.

The plot is nothing new: Will Graham, played by Edward Norton, is a brilliant detective who retires after capturing the cannibalistic serial killer Hannibal Lecter (played dependably, if slightly predictably, by Anthony Hopkins). However, when a new monster begins slaughtering entire families, Graham is drawn back into his dangerous profession, and is eventually forced to ask Lecter for help in catching the killer. Although the script borders on melodramatic and predictable at times, its fast pacing and engaging characters make it work.

Comparing this film to its predecessors is unavoidable, and *Red Dragon* holds up surprisingly well. *Hannibal* was a cruel, disappointing joke that

attempted to distract viewers from its dragging plot by grossing them out, and is therefore extremely easy to improve upon. Meanwhile, it's unlikely that any filmmaker will ever be able to recreate the stylish suspense and disturbing insanity that made *The Silence of the Lambs* an undisputed classic, but *Red Dragon* uses precise camera work, convincing special effects, and an impressive cast to come respectably close. All of the major cast members have been involved in Oscar-winning projects, and each turns in a captivating performance. Anthony Hopkins is merely reprising his role, but he does so with the same chilling menace as in the first two Lecter movies. Edward Norton is spectacular as always, and Emily Watson is both convincing and endearing as a blind woman who unknowingly gets involved with the killer.

Particularly notable is Ralph Fiennes' realistic portrayal of a deranged murderer who believes that each killing gives him the power of the *Red Dragon* (a figure taken from a painting by William Blake). Fiennes manages to make his character terrifying and sympathetic at the same time. In fact, his performance is reminiscent of Anthony Perkins' in *Psycho*, not because we don't suspect him, but because both characters are driven to madness by abusive maternal figures. Fiennes plays the *Red Dragon* with gusto, and the result is one of the few serial killers that we can maybe feel a little bit sorry for.

Keep in mind, *Red Dragon* is not for people with weak stomachs or with bleak outlooks on life. You should not watch it by yourself, and if becoming the victim of a serial killer is one of your biggest fears, you should not watch it at all. However, if you are a Lecter fan, or if you just want to be scared, don't miss it.